

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

CARL DEAN EDWARDS,

Plaintiff,

v.

JAMES COX et al.,

Defendants.

2:14-cv-138-JCM-VCF

ORDER

This action is a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a state prisoner. On January 31, 2014, this court issued an order denying the application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, without prejudice, because the application was incomplete. (ECF No. 2 at 1-2). The court ordered plaintiff to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full filing fee within thirty days from the date of that order. (*Id.* at 2). On April 18, 2014, the court entered an order dismissing the case because plaintiff had not filed another application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, paid the full filing fee, or otherwise responded to the court's order. (ECF No. 3 at 1). On May 2, 2014, plaintiff filed a motion for reconsideration because he never received a copy of the order directing him to re-file his application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and requested more time to file another application. (ECF No. 5 at 1). On May 7, 2014, the court granted plaintiff's motion for reconsideration and reopened the case. (ECF No. 6 at 2). The court ordered plaintiff to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full filing fee within thirty days from the date of that order. (*Id.*). The thirty-day period has now expired, and plaintiff has not filed another application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, paid the full filing fee, or otherwise responded to the court's order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party’s failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors: (1) the public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130; *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

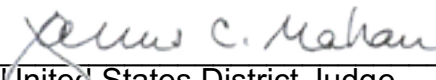
In the instant case, the court finds that the first two factors, the public’s interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation and the court’s interest in managing the docket, weigh in favor of dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See *Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor – public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits – is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court’s warning to a party that his failure to obey the court’s order will result in dismissal satisfies the “consideration of alternatives” requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262;

1 *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1424. The court's order requiring
2 plaintiff to file another application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full filing fee within
3 thirty days expressly stated: "IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if plaintiff does not timely
4 comply with this order, dismissal of this action may result." (ECF No. 6 at 2). Thus, plaintiff
5 had adequate warning that dismissal would result from his noncompliance with the court's
6 order to file another application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full filing fee within
7 thirty days.

8 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on plaintiff's
9 failure to file another application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full filing fee in
10 compliance with this court's May 7, 2014, order.

11 It is further ordered that the clerk of court shall enter judgment accordingly.

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13 DATED: June 17, 2014.

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16 United States District Judge
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